UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/757
6 July 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 6 JULY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 5 July 1999 from Mr. Humam Abd al-Khaliq Abd al-Ghafur, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. It contains details of the sabotage carried out by a New Zealand official working in Iraq under United Nations auspices, and it urges you to investigate this crime and take steps to end violations such as this being committed by persons bearing United Nations identity documents who engage in actions that are incompatible with the most elementary norms and standards governing the work of international civil servants.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 5 July 1999 from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Mr. Ian ("Red") Broughton is a United Nations official who is a national of New Zealand and works as a mine clearance supervisor in the Sulaymaniyah Governorate sector in a project under the memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the United Nations of 20 May 1996 concerning the implementation of the oil-for-food formula.

I should like to bring it to your attention that in April 1999 Mr. Broughton entered the Klar district of Sulaymaniyah Governorate (contiguous to the Khanaqin city boundary) driving a vehicle with the registration plate 9047/Irbil that was operating for the mine clearance project and bore the markings of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Mr. Broughton unloaded a number of boxes from the vehicle and buried them in areas contiguous to Khanaqin district villages. A number of people from the tribes that inhabit the area near the localities where the boxes had been placed subsequently proceeded to remove them. When their contents were examined by agricultural experts in Klar district it transpired that they were locusts' eggs, the locust being an agricultural pest that destroys crops. When the area's tribes protested against this action, Mr. Broughton informed them that it was not directed against them but against the Khanaqin district and thence against the other governorates of central and southern Iraq.

This disgraceful and immoral act, committed by an official working under United Nations cover for a programme that is supposed to be of a humanitarian character, is in truth nothing less than an act of sabotage that, at bottom, advances the objectives of circles that are hostile to Iraq. It is incompatible with the international and humanitarian character of the mission entrusted to an international civil servant under the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. Such criminal conduct is also to be seen in the context of the constant and frenzied attempts being made to destroy Iraq and, in particular, to destroy its agricultural resources and sabotage an economy that is already suffering under the embargo with which it has been burdened since August 1990.

As it condemns and deplores this disgraceful act, the Government of Iraq requests you to intervene personally to see to it that this crime is investigated, that the parties that colluded in it are exposed, that Mr. Ian Broughton is brought to trial, that the contract with the Australian company for which he works, GFC, is terminated immediately and the company is prevented from continuing to operate, and that an end is brought to these and other violations committed by persons bearing United Nations identity documents who engage in actions that are incompatible with the most elementary norms and standards governing the work of international civil servants.

(Signed) Humam Abd al-Khaliq ABD AL-GHAFUR
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq